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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6757**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1109

**NOTE PREPARED:** Jan 2, 2010

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Early Voting by Voters with Disabilities.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Battles

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:**     **GENERAL**  
                              **DEDICATED**  
                              **FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** Local

**Summary of Legislation:** *Accessibility Requirements-* The bill requires that all locations (other than the circuit court clerk's office) where a voter is entitled to cast in person an absentee ballot before election day must meet the same accessibility requirements that apply to a polling place for a precinct.

*Assistance of Certain Voters-* The bill provides that a voter casting an absentee ballot before an absentee voter board in the office of the circuit court clerk (OCCC) or at a satellite office is entitled to receive assistance in casting a ballot if the voter is a voter with a disability or is unable to read or write English.

*DRE Voting for Voters with Disabilities-* The bill provides that a voter with a disability who votes an absentee ballot (other than a voter who casts an absentee ballot before an absentee voter board that visits the voter's residence or place of confinement) is entitled to vote on a direct record electronic (DRE) voting system.

*Counting of Absentee Ballots-* The bill provides that a county election board (CEB) may count absentee ballots cast at the OCCC's office or at a satellite office on a DRE voting system at a central location instead of sending those ballots to the precinct for counting. The bill requires a CEB that counts absentee ballots in this manner to adjust precinct vote totals to reflect the counting of these absentee ballots. The bill provides that a county that counts these absentee ballots in this fashion is not required to count other absentee ballots at a central location.

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2011.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:**

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** *Accessibility Requirements-* Counties would likely be able to find facilities for satellite offices that meet accessibility requirements.

*DRE Voting for Voters with Disabilities-* CEBs in counties with optical scan voting systems could use their DRE machine for absentee ballots for voters with disabilities.

*Counting of Absentee Ballots-* CEBs could save on travel time and expenditure if absentee ballots cast on direct recording electronic (DRE) voting systems did not have to be sent to precincts for counting.

CEB's could require additional administrative time to compile and deliver absentee voting lists to precincts.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:**

**Local Agencies Affected:** CEB, OCCC.

**Information Sources:**

**Fiscal Analyst:** Chris Baker, 317-232-9851.